

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TAGS: USIRJC, IR
SUBJ: U.S. - IRAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 173596 AND PREVIOUS

1. EC COUNSELOR AND E/C COUNSELOR-DESIGNATE MILLS MET WITH MOHAMMAD REZA NAGHABAT JUL 11 TO REVIEW NEXT STEPS TOWARD PRODUCTION OF A SUITABLE FIRST DRAFT OF U.S.-IRAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT. RESULTS THIS MEETING FOLLOW.

2. NEGHABAT SAID THAT WHILE IRAN SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION CONTEMPLATING SUBMITTING TO IRANIAN PARLIAMENT SOME CHANGES IN BASIC LAW, BILATERAL ACCORD WOULD STILL BE NECESSARY IF U.S. CITIZENS/COMPANIES WORKING IN IRAN WISH TO DROP OUT IRANIAN SYSTEM BY REASON OF BEING COVERED BY U.S. SYSTEM. HE THOUGHT IT ESSENTIAL TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN MEDICAL BENEFITS ON THE ONE HAND AND SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT BENEFITS ON THE OTHER. AFTER SOME CONVERSATION ON THIS POINT (MR. YOUSSEFIZADEH OF NEGHABAT'S STAFF WAS PRESENT) NEGHABAT CONCLUDED THAT AGREEMENT OUGHT TO ADDRESS SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS ONLY. THUS, IF U.S. CITIZENS WISHED NOT RPT NOT TO BE COVERED BY IRAN'S COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM WHICH INCLUDES BOTH HEALTH AND RETIRMENT BENEFITS, THEN THESE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE TO SEEK COMMERCIAL, PRIVATE MEDICAL PLANS OR OPT NOT TO BE UNCLASSIFIED

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COVERED AT ALL. THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITH IRANIANS WORKING IN THE U.S. SINCE MEDICARE/MEDICAID SYSTEMS ARE NOT PART OF BASIC U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY LAW.

3. NEGHABAT SAID HE WAS GENERALLY AWARE OF U.S. AGREEMENTS WITH GERMANY AND ITALY (EMBASSY ALREADY HAS COPIES OF THESE AGREEMENTS) AND THOUGHT THAT THEY WERE TOO COMPLEX FOR IRANIAN

SITUATION. PHENOMENON OF LARGE NUMBERS OF AMERICANS RETIRED IN IRAN AND IRANIANS RETIRED IN U.S. DRAWING BENEFITS UNDER EITHER SYSTEM, DOES NOT NOW EXIST NOR IS LIKELY TO EXIST IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. BASIC PROBLEM, HE SAID, IS PROBLEM U.S. COMPANIES ARE FACING IN TERMS OF HAVING TO PAY INTO BOTH SYSTEMS AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT NEGHBAT HAS BEEN RECEIVING NUMEROUS REPRESENTATIONS BY AFFECTED COMPANIES. DOUBLE COVERAGE, HE SAID, IS WASTEFUL, NOT NEEDED, AND A SOLUTION IS REQUIRED. EMBOFFS AGREED ENTIRELY WITH THIS PROPOSITION.

4. AS TO THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP, NEGHBAT SAID THAT MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF, MENTIONING MR. YOUSSEFIZADEH AND MRS. NOORBASH, MIGHT COME TO EMBASSY AND SIT DOWN WITH EMBOFFS TO HAMMER OUT A FIRST DRAFT. THIS PAPER COULD BE EITHER MODELED ALONG LINES IRAN-KOREA AGREEMENT, OR ALTERNATIVELY COULD BE SIMPLE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES WHICH WOULD BE EMBODIED IN FINAL AGREEMENT. HE EXPRESSED TOTAL OPTIMISM THAT A SUITABLE FIRST DRAFT COULD BE DRAWN UP WITHIN A DAY OR TWO. EMBOFFS POINTED OUT, AND NEGHBAT INDICATED HIS COMPLETED ACCEPTANCE, THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONCERNED NATURALLY WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW DRAFT AND MIGHT WELL HAVE SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO OFFER. NEGHBAT AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE FOR AS SIMPLE AGREEMENT AS POSSIBLE.

5. EMBASSY PLANS TO MEET WITH NEGHBAT STAFF WITHIN A WEEK OR SO BUT WOULD WELCOME WHATEVER THOUGHTS SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION MIGHT HAVE PRIOR THERETO.
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